

## **DRUG-RELATED DEATH RATE**

### **Objective**

By 1990, drug-related mortality should be reduced to 2 per 100,000 per year.

### **Explanatory Notes**

Excludes deaths caused by alcohol. Includes ICD codes E850-858, E950.0-950.5, E980.0-980.5 of the Ninth Revision and E850-859, E950.0-950.3, and 980.0-980.3 of the Eighth Revision.

### **Findings**

The North Carolina data indicate a gradual increase in nonalcohol drug-related mortality with a 1990 projection of about 2.7 deaths per 100,000 population. The U.S. rate also increased in 1984 following four years of stable rates.

Based on toxicology tests performed on approximately 85 percent of N.C. Medical Examiner cases in 1986 (6), the largest numbers of these deaths involved antidepressants (46 deaths), abused drugs (44 deaths), and propoxyphene (18 deaths). A striking trend is the recent rise in cocaine-related deaths, from 3 in 1981 to 27 in 1986.

### **Data Sources**

North Carolina: State Center for Health Statistics  
United States: National Center for Health Statistics